

Local and State

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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Our chemical recovery site

at site surveyed by Environmental Protection Agency for clean up



GENE KREBS / CHRONICLE

Massenburg, remedial project manager of the U.S. EPA, said the site, at 126 Locust St. in Elyria, was last tested in 1995. Soil, groundwater, river water and other samples were taken to determine the feasibility of cleaning up the site.

Christina Jolliffe
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — Representatives from the federal and state offices of the Environmental Protection Agency toured a former chemical recovery site on Locust Street on Thursday in preparation to clean up the site.

Gwen Massenburg, remedial project manager of the U.S. EPA, said the site, at 126 Locust St., was last tested in 1995. Soil, groundwater, river water and other samples were taken to determine the feasibility of cleaning up the site.

All of the chemicals present that posed an "imminent danger" were cleaned up at that time, she said.

The EPA is going back to the project now, seven years later, because it has located the 153 companies responsible for dumping chemicals at the site.

Those companies are paying for the current feasibility study to clean up the area.

The same companies also will be responsible when it comes time to pay for the actual clean-up. But that could be more than three years away.

Massenburg said an independent contractor hired by the EPA was making house calls this week to residents in the neighborhood informing them of what was going on in the area and attempting to set up a community committee.

"It's a courtesy," she said. "It has been awhile since anyone has been over here. If they noticed a presence on the site, we wanted to let them know what we were doing and address any concerns that they might have."

As early as this spring, trucks could be moving through the area digging and monitoring wells and taking

soil samples.

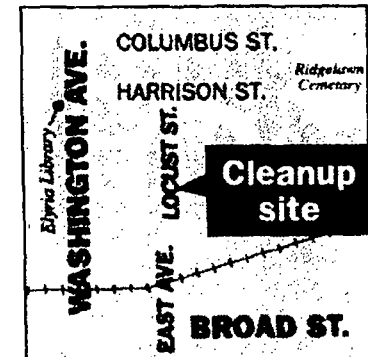
Once the samples are analyzed, a public meeting will be held to inform the public of the various clean-up options available that the public meeting probably will not be held for another two years.

Then, the EPA will negotiate with the responsible companies to pay to clean the site, which could take up to another year, Massenburg said.

"All of the dangerous materials already were taken care of," she said. "We want to find out what's still in the soil and go from there."

Chemical Recovery Systems used the site to recycle various solvents such as acetone, benzene, ethyl-benzene and others.

Environmental activist Pauline Leboda, of Lorain County Neighbors Protecting Our Environment, met with representatives from the EPA



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and the engineering company Thursday.

"It's a good start as long as they stay in contact and make sure that the whole community is involved in this," she said of the activity at the site. "So far, it sounds pretty good."

City officials were scheduled to meet with EPA representatives this morning.

Contact Christina Jolliffe at 329-7129 or cjolliffe@chronicletelegram.com.